

Listing of Claims:

Please rewrite claims 8 and 10 as follows:

1-7. (Canceled)

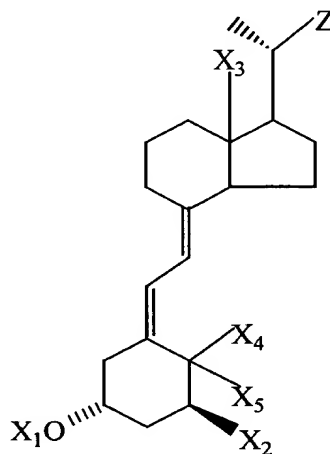
8. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of reducing the amount of phosphorus in cow manure, which comprises:~~ A method of maintaining milk production in a dairy cow fed a low phosphorus diet, comprising the steps of:
~~substituting a 1 α -hydroxylated vitamin D compound for some or all of the inorganic phosphorus in a diet of a cow; and~~ replacing some or all inorganic phosphorus in a diet for a dairy cow with a 1 α -hydroxylated vitamin D compound; and
feeding said diet to said dairy cow.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said diet includes a feed, and said 1 α -hydroxylated vitamin D compound is fed as a top dressing on said feed.

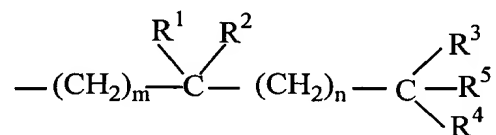
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said ~~effective amount of the~~ 1 α -hydroxylated vitamin D compound comprises about 0.1 μ g/kg to about 100 μ g/kg of diet.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said diet includes a feed, and said feed contains 0% by weight of an inorganic phosphorus supplement.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said 1 α -hydroxylated vitamin D compound is characterized by the following general structure:



where X_1 may be hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group, X_2 may be hydroxy, or protected hydroxy, X_3 may be hydrogen or methyl, X_4 and X_5 each represent hydrogen or taken together X_4 and X_5 represent a methylene group, and where Z is selected from Y , $-OY$, $-CH_2OY$, $-C\equiv CY$ and $-CH=CHY$, where the double bond may have the cis or trans stereochemical configuration, and where Y is selected from hydrogen, methyl, $-CR_5O$ and a radical of the structure:



where m and n , independently, represent integers from 0 to 5, where R^1 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, protected-hydroxy, fluoro, trifluoromethyl, and C_{1-5} -alkyl, which may be straight chain or branched and, optionally, bear a hydroxy or protected-hydroxy substituent, and where each of R^2 , R^3 and R^4 , independently, is selected from hydrogen, fluoro, trifluoromethyl and C_{1-5} alkyl, which may be straight-chain or branched, and optionally bear a hydroxy or protected-hydroxy substituent, and where R^1 and R^2 , taken together, represent an oxo group, or an alkylidene group, $=CR_2R_3$, or the group $-(CH_2)_p-$, where p is an integer from 2 to 5, and where R^3 and R^4 , taken together, represent an oxo group, or the group $-(CH_2)_q-$, where q is an integer from 2 to 5, and where R^5 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, protected-hydroxy, or C_{1-5} alkyl.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the vitamin D compound is 1α -hydroxyvitamin D_3 .

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the vitamin D compound is $1\alpha,25$ -dihydroxyvitamin D_3 .